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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,076	10/31/2003	Nasser Nouri	03226.325001; P8622	1363
32615	7590	09/25/2006	EXAMINER	
OSHA LIANG L.L.P./SUN 1221 MCKINNEY, SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			PALADINI, ALBERT WILLIAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2125	

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/699,076	NOURI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	Albert W. Paladini	2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 14-26 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ . 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicants admitted prior art.

Applicant discloses as prior art an encoded assertion on page 2, paragraph 4 (26, fig 1). Applicant discloses as prior art a fanin cone detection facility on page 3, paragraph 7 (40, fig 2). Applicant discloses a waveform trace facility on page 2, paragraph 4 (34, fig 1). Applicant discloses a simulation toolkit on page 3, paragraph 8 (32, fig 1). The connectivity database is disclose on page 2, paragraph 4 (28, fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-26 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the references cited or the art searched disclose or teach alone or in combination generating hooks into the simulation image using a simulation toolkit in

combination and in the same relationship to the other recited elements of claims 14, 23, and 26.

Relevant Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kramer (5297057) discloses a method and apparatus for design of kinematic linkages with the ability to trace out the path followed by a marker during kinematic simulation. The method utilizes a file with a hook, which allows the addition of components with changed parameters.

Saitoh (6154719) discloses a logic simulation method, where fanin pointers aid in the trace point simulation, which enables added circuits to be integrated efficiently into the simulation.

Stanion (6457162) discloses a method for circuit verification using gate level simulation and where each circuit has the fanin cones of its primary inputs ordered from the smallest to the largest.

Baumgartner (6763505) discloses a method for verification of circuit designs using all events trace techniques in a phase-abstracted model, where clocknets in the fanin of ungated latch clocks are identified uniquely.

Lahiri (6877053) discloses a high performance communication architecture, which assigns a bandwidth to each component for a simulation trace and provides appropriate hooks for the bandwidths assigned.

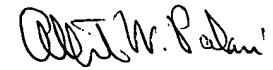
Visweswariah (7086023) discloses a system for determining critical node probabilities in a digital circuit design where deterministic or probabilistic assertions are read and parameterized, and the criticality probability of any node is the sum of the criticality probabilities of all of the paths in the fanin cone of that node.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Albert W. Paladini whose telephone number is (571) 272-3748. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:00 to 3:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Leo P. Picard, can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

September 18, 2006



Albert W. Paladini
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125